CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Currently amended) An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device comprising:

a fax gateway including,

a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device;

at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, wherein a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained ~~independently of~~ separately from the e-mail.

2. (Currently amended) An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device ~~as recited in claim 1~~ comprising:

a fax gateway including

a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device, and

at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained separately from the e-mail; and

wherein the storage device ~~further can~~ is enabled to store ~~a~~ the fax ~~telephone~~ number, the fax number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, the fax ~~telephone~~ number to be used to establish a call for the transmission of the fax document.

3. (Currently amended) An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device ~~as recited in claim 1~~ comprising:

a fax gateway including

a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device, and

at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained separately from the e-mail; and

wherein the storage device ~~can~~ is enabled to store a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.

4. (Currently amended) An Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA)-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device ~~as recited in claim 1~~ comprising:

a fax gateway including

a storage device for storing an e-mail message received from an e-mail sender for transmission to a fax recipient through a packet switching network, the stored e-mail message to be converted to a fax document for transmission thereof to the fax recipient having access to a fax device, and

at least one fax modem device for transmitting the fax document to the fax recipient through a public switching network, where a fax number designating the fax recipient is obtained separately from the e-mail; and

~~further including~~ a server device to store ~~a~~ the fax ~~telephone~~ number, the fax number associated with the fax device of the fax recipient, the fax ~~telephone~~ number for establishing a call for the transmission of the fax document, ~~said~~ the server device to store a time-of-day for specifying a range of time during which the fax document is transmitted.

5. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim ~~1~~2 where~~in~~ the storage device is configured to be used to create a fax cover page for transmission thereof to the fax recipient.

6. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 5 ~~wherein~~ the e-mail message includes an e-mail address, and the fax cover page includes a sender field extracted from the e-mail address.

7. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 6 ~~wherein~~ the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device assigns an e-mail address to the fax recipient, the e-mail address ~~being identified by a~~ associated with the fax ~~telephone~~ number ~~identifying the fax device~~, and ~~wherein~~ the fax cover page ~~for further including~~ includes a destination field extracted from the fax recipient e-mail address.

8. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 7 ~~wherein~~ the e-mail message includes a subject field and the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device ~~for including~~ is enabled to include the e-mail subject field contents in the fax cover page prior to transmission thereof to the fax recipient.

9. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim ~~1~~2 ~~wherein~~ the storage device ~~for~~ is enabled to ~~further~~ ~~assigning~~ a home directory for storage of e-mail messages directed to the fax recipient and ~~upon~~ receipt of the e-mail message, ~~for storing~~ is enabled to store the email message within the assigned home directory of the fax recipient.

10. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim ~~1~~2 ~~wherein~~ the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network.

11. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim ~~1~~2 ~~wherein~~ the fax gateway is coupled to the public switching telephone network through a digital communications link.

12. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim ~~1~~2 ~~wherein~~ the fax gateway is coupled to the packet switching network through a digital communications link.

13. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim ~~1~~2 ~~wherein~~ the storage device is a computer system having a conversion program to convert the e-mail message to a fax document.

14. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 13 ~~wherein~~ the storage device is a computer system having an e-mail program for causing storage of the e-mail message.

15. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 14 ~~wherein~~ the e-mail program and the conversion program reside externally to the fax gateway.

16. (Currently amended) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim ~~1~~2 ~~wherein~~ the fax gateway ~~can~~ is enabled to receive a reply fax document from the fax recipient, and ~~can~~ is enabled to convert the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message and transmit the reply e-mail message to the <u>e-mail</u> sender.

17. (Currently amended) A method for sending and receiving e-mail messages using a fax device comprising:

      receiving an e-mail message through a data communications network from an e-mail sender;

      converting the e-mail message into a fax document;

      retrieving a destination fax number <u>of a fax recipient separate from</u> ~~independent of~~ the e-mail message; and

      transmitting the fax document to ~~a~~ <u>the</u> fax recipient thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network.

18. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 17 further ~~including~~ comprising:

receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document~~,~~;

converting the reply fax document to a reply e-mail message; and

transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.

19. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 17 further ~~including~~ comprising:

verifying a destination user address of the e-mail message for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.

20. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 19 ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

~~up~~on unsuccessful verification of the destination user address, sending a failed message.

21. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored therein computer readable program code comprising instructions for performing the following steps:

receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;

converting the e-mail message into a fax document;

retrieving a destination fax number of a fax recipient separate from ~~independent of~~ the e-mail message; and

transmitting the fax document to ~~a~~ the fax recipient thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network.

22. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

means for receiving an e-mail message, from through a data communications network;

means for converting the e-mail message into a fax document;

means for retrieving a destination fax number of a fax recipient separate from ~~independent of~~ the e-mail message; and

means for transmitting the fax document to ~~a~~ the fax recipient thereby enabling the fax recipient to receive e-mail messages without access to the data networking network.

23. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22 further comprising means for receiving a reply from the fax recipient in the form of a reply fax document, converting the reply fax document to a

reply e-mail message and transmitting the reply e-mail message through the data communications network.

24. (Previously presented) The device of claim 22 further comprising means for verifying a destination user address for identifying the fax recipient as being a known user.

25. (New) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 1 where the ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device is enabled to obtain the fax number based, at least in part, on a look-up of an intended recipient of the e-mail message.

26. (New) An ARPA-Internet Network Access/Service Provider device as recited in claim 25 where the intended recipient of the e-mail message is identified in a To field of the e-mail message.

27. (New) A method as recited in claim 17 where the retrieving the destination fax number comprises looking up the destination fax number based, at least in part, on an intended recipient of the e-mail message.

28. (New) A method as recited in claim 27 where the intended recipient of the e-mail message is identified in a To field of the e-mail message.

29. (New) A method as recited in claim 17 where the converting comprises creating a fax title page.

30. (New) A method as recited in claim 29 where a From field of the fax title page is derived from the e-mail address of the e-mail sender.